



Investing an additional US\$40 billion a year in the forestry sector could halve deforestation rates by 2030, increase rates of tree planting by around 140 per cent by 2050, and catalyze the creation of millions of new jobs according to a report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), published on 5 June, World Environment Day 2011.

Backed by the right kinds of enabling policies, such an investment - equivalent to about two-thirds more than what is spent on the sector today - could also sequester or remove an extra 28 per cent of carbon from the atmosphere, thus playing a key role in combating climate change.

Forests in a Green Economy: A Synthesis was unveiled during this year's World Environment Day (WED) celebrations. The theme, *Forests: Nature at Your Service*, underscores the multitude of benefits that forests provide to humanity.

WED 2011 also comes during the UN-declared International Year of the Forests, which is in part focused on the critical links between forests and the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient green economy.

“WED 2011 comes precisely 12 months before the Rio+20 meeting in Brazil next year

where the world will come together to try and forge a new and more decisive response to the sustainable development challenge of the 21st century," said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director.

See more:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=2645&ArticleID=8761&lang=en>